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JOHN RICHARDSON: HIS HOUSE AND GARDEN

By ROBERT TRACY JACKSON
Cambridge, Mass.

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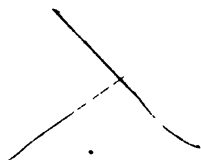
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John Richardson

JOHN RICHARDSON: HIS HOUSE AND GARDEN.

BY ROBERT TRACY JACKSON, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Presented for publication, October, 1904.

Having been requested to prepare a notice of my friend the late Mr. John Richardson, and his garden, for the Transactions of the Society, I undertook the writing with pleasure, as it seemed that some adequate description should go on record of this remarkable man, his interesting house and garden, all now a memory only, for their material presence is a thing of the past. He was a rare old man, it was a rare old house, and a rare old garden, and it was my privilege to know them intimately.

The Olivers who in colonial times built and lived in the old Richardson, or Everett house, as it is usually called, were intimately associated with the owners of many famous old houses in Cambridge and Medford, so that some account of these houses and their owners is also given.

I would express my warm thanks to kind friends who have given me information, especially Mrs. Alonzo Prouty, a relative of Mr. Richardson's; Mrs. C. R. Howard; and Henry M. Spelman, Esq., of Cambridge, who sought in the Registry of Deeds for facts in regard to the Lowell and other lands. A list of obituary notices of Mr. Richardson, and references made use of, is given at the end of this paper.

MR. RICHARDSON AND HIS FAMILY.

The late Mr. John Richardson, well known as a skilful horticulturist, and especially known for the choice seedling peonies that he raised, was born in Boston the 19th of February 1798, and died in Dorchester the 22nd of September 1887, in the ninetieth year of his age. He was a "remarkable man, . . . whether we consider the versatility of his gifts, his extensive reading and wonderful memory, the unusual refinement of his

nature and tastes, or the uprightness of his character and the purity of his life." (Obituary notice, 3). Simple, without ostentation, he was a man of marked individuality of character, vivacious, original, of quaint personality, a gentleman of the old school in the best sense of the word; beloved by his intimates, respected by all. He left a lasting impression on those who knew him. He was very generous to charities, as attested by those who had good reason to know. One day he greeted his pastor's daughter with the words:—"I saw you coming, so brought down my purse to save the trouble of going up for it."

The accompanying portrait is from a daguerreotype taken in Dorchester, the 25th of September 1851, he being then in his fifty-fourth year. The signature, however, is from a manuscript signature written in 1887, a few months before his death. For the loan of the daguerreotype reproduced, also for access to the interesting old account books and brief diary of Mr. George Richardson, running from 1819 for some twenty-five years, and for many facts in regard to Mr. John Richardson, I am indebted to his relative, Mrs. Alonzo Prouty, who was an inmate of his household for some seventeen years.

John Richardson was of the sixth generation descended from Thomas Richardson, one of three brothers who came over from England about 1635. This branch of the family lived successively in Charlestown, Woburn and Lancaster, in that portion of the town which later became part of the town of Princeton. (Vinton). John Richardson, the youngest of several children, was the son of William and Susannah Richardson, his mother's maiden name being Susannah Walker.¹ The children were, Thomas B., settled in Tiffin, Ohio, and died at the age of eighty; Nicholas Boylston, a merchant in Hayti; William, settled in Richmond, Virginia, and died at about seventy years of age; Susan Boylston, born about 1785, died 3 August 1832, aged

¹ William Richardson Jr. (son of Wm. and Esther (Joslin) Richardson) married Susannah Walker, 12 Nov. 1779. (Vital records of Princeton). Vinton says (p. 617), that William's wife was a Miles. This, Mrs. Prouty assures me, is an error. There was a lady, Mary Miles, who lived with the Richardsons, and was called Aunt Miles, though not a near relative, which perhaps, gave rise to the error; she is buried in the family lot at Forest Hills cemetery. There is no evidence for two wives.

forty-seven; Dudley, born about 1789, died 3 Nov. 1808, aged nineteen; George, born about 1796, died 16 May 1861, aged sixty-five; and John, born 1798 (from Vinton, combined with records from monument at Forest Hills cemetery, and Suffolk deeds). William Richardson, the father, came from Princeton, Mass., and was a dry goods merchant, making a special feature of silk. He lived and had his store at 65 Cornhill, on the south corner of Williams Court, colloquially known now as Pi, or Pie Alley (Figs. 5, 6). The name Cornhill was retained until 1824, when it with other parts of the same street received the name of Washington street. William Richardson appears at this location, 65 Cornhill, in conjunction with Dudley Walker, in the Boston Directories of 1796 and 1798; in directories of 1800-1816 he appears at the same location by himself, and in 1818 his son Nicholas appears at the same location and in the same business. As shown by probate records Nicholas was a partner of his father's before the latter's death. Later he went to Hayti, as above stated.

This old locality is interesting as a part of old Boston as well as the birthplace and early home of Mr. John Richardson, so that records of the sales are introduced here. They were kindly supplied to me by Mr. Spelman. Joseph Ford of Boston sold to William Richardson and Dudley Walker, merchants, both of Boston, the estate No. 65 Cornhill, 26 August 1796. (Suffolk Records, Book 184, p. 117). A sketch of the land as described in the deed is given in Fig. 6. There was a brick house on the premises and the consideration was \$7,000. Dudley Walker sold his half to William Richardson, 19 April 1800 (Book 197, p. 260). William Richardson sold to Gardiner Greene, of Boston, gentleman, on 19 December 1806, consideration \$20,000 (Book 197, p. 260). Gardiner Greene reconveyed to Richardson on 17 February 1809. William Richardson died intestate 1 December 1815. His inventory includes a mansion house, \$15,000. His heirs are not named in the probate records, but on 22 December 1819, Thomas B., William, George, Susan B., John and Nicholas B. Richardson convey to Samuel Fales (Book 266, p. 153), reciting that they are heirs at law of William Richardson, deceased. In that deed the passageway is called Williams Court; the Winthrop

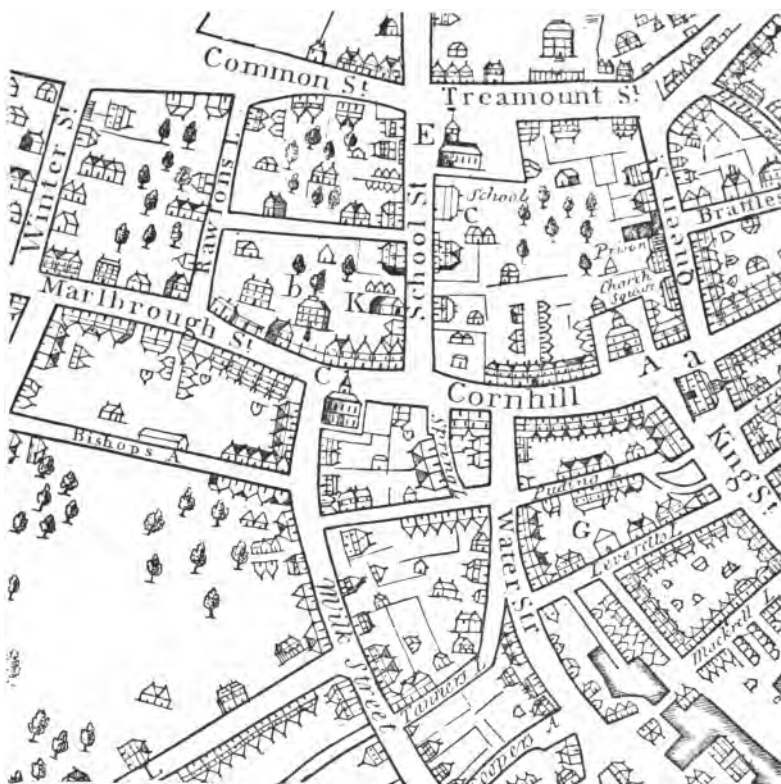


FIG. 5.—From Bonner's map of Boston in 1722. "A. The Old Church, 1630"=site of the present Roger's Building. "C. Old South [Church], 1660." "E. Ch[ur]ch of England, 1688,"=King's Chapel. "K. French [Church], 1716." "a. Town House"=Old State House. "b. Governor's House." "Bishop's A[lley]"=Hawley St. since 1800. "Common St. [after 1836, and] Tremonst St."=Tremont St. "Coopers A[lley since 1829 and] Mackrell L[ane]" since 1769=Kilby St. "Hilliers L[ane]"=Brattle St. since 1820. "King St."=State St. since 1784. "Leverett L[ane]"=Congress St. since 1800. "Marlborough St. [and] Cornhill"=Washington St. since 1824. "Pudding L[ane]"=Devonshire St. since 1784. "Queen St."=Court St. since 1784. "Rawsons L[ane]"=Bromfield St. since 1829. Savages Court, after 1789 Williams Court, now colloquially known as Pi, or Pie Alley. The entrance archway to Williams Court from Cornhill, since 1732 has been called Webster's arch and lies above the letter h, in the word Cornhill. (Change of names from Nomenclature of Streets, City of Boston, 1879. Compare Figs. 6-7.)

land is owned by Andrew Brimmer and the Webster land, by William Thurston. The Richardson estate is now Nos. 241 and 243 Washington Street and No. 2 Williams Court. A sketch, Fig. 7 shows the present owners of the Richardson and adjacent land for comparison with the sketch of 1796.

"William Richardson's mother was of the French family of Joslin (originally spelled Jouselin) and from his French ancestry, John Richardson doubtless derived that vivacity which was

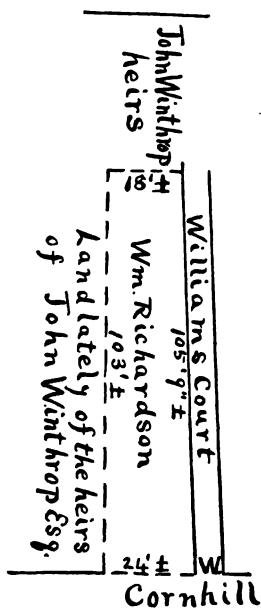


FIG. 6.—Plan and location of the William Richardson lot in 1796. Here John Richardson was born in 1798, compare with Fig 5.

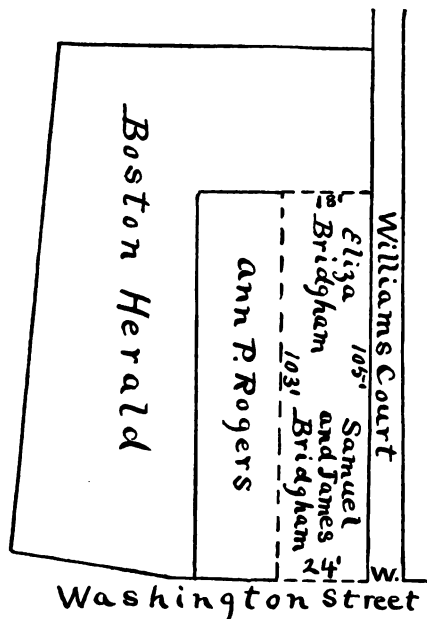


FIG. 7.—Present plan and ownership of the same land, 1904.

W. in both figs. is Webster's arch, the entrance archway to Williams court. The archway is seen in Fig. 5 above the letter h, in the word Cornhill.

one of his distinguishing characteristics. John Richardson's maternal grandmother was Susanna Boylston, daughter of Dudley Boylston of Brookline, Mass." (Obituary, 3). She was a member of the family of that name who held such a prominent position from their abilities and public bequests.

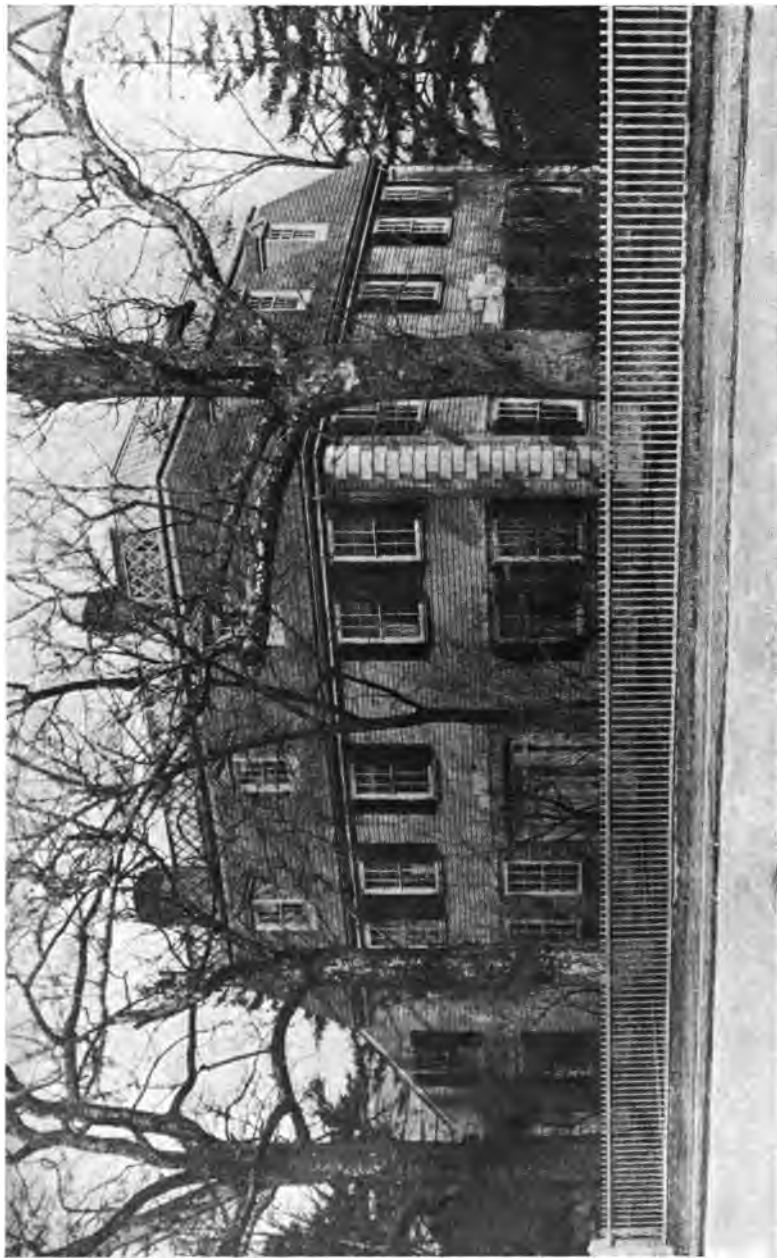
John Richardson passed his childhood and youthful days in Boston and retained a vivid impression of what it was then as a comparatively small town. He often spoke of the fine old garden of Gardiner Greene on Pemberton Square. From this garden, which was famous in its day, was transplanted the Ginkgo tree that is now growing on Boston Common, opposite Joy Street. In boyhood he was educated by the father of John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home," who kept a select school in Boston. (Obituary, 4). In his reminiscent talks he told of going to the Old Brick Church (Fig. 5) which stood on the site of the present Rogers Building, and relieving the tedium of the service by watching the pigeons on near by roofs. The pigeons and the State House are all that is visibly left of his boyhood days in that locality.

After the death of their mother in 1814 and father in 1815,¹ John with his brother George and their sister, Susan Boylston Richardson, moved from Boston in 1819 to the old Everett Mansion in Dorchester. They hired it of Mrs. Oliver Everett, widow of the Reverend Oliver Everett. In Mr. George Richardson's account book occurs this entry under 7 April 1819. "Paid Mrs. Everett one quarter's rent in advance \$62.50." Similar entries occur at later dates until on 1 October 1833, we find the entry, "Bought the Everett estate in Dorchester."

Dorchester was real country when the Richardsons went there in 1819, and even in my own early recollection, pastures, farms and gardens were the rule. In his early Dorchester days, public conveyance to Boston was by a coach that ran from Boston to Milton once a day, Sundays excepted, leaving Elm Street, Boston, at five o'clock in the afternoon, and arriving at the same place at ten o'clock in the morning. (Boston Directory, 1820, p. 19). Now there is an electric car probably every three or five minutes, either passing the site of his house or not far off.

Mr. John Richardson was delicate from a child, never devoted himself to business and never married. His brother George, with their cousin William Richardson, was engaged in the West India trade and amassed a substantial fortune. Their business

¹ Dates from gravestones in Forest Hills cemetery.



THE RICHARDSON (EVERETT) HOUSE BUILT BY ROBERT OLIVER IN 1745, VIEW FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

house was on Rowe's Wharf, Boston. Another brother, Nicholas, formed the Haytien end of the firm. Relieved of business cares Mr. Richardson devoted himself to music and horticulture. He was accustomed to practice on the piano six or eight hours a day, and was said to be a remarkable musician with a fine ear and touch. A good deal of manuscript music exists written in his careful painstaking hand, and for a number of years he gave music lessons. His affection for his brother George was unbounded, and when the latter died, in 1861,¹ Mr. Richardson closed the piano and never played on it afterward, nor allowed it to be opened. His affection for his brother was shown in a number of characteristic ways. George's studio was in the top story of the house, seen in Pl. 5 (the right hand window), commanding a view of Dorchester Bay, and lined with the pictures that he had painted. Some of his pictures, as noted, are seen in the sitting room and parlor (Pls. 6 and 7). His studio was kept locked and left untouched after his death, and the wood he had brought up shortly before his death was left by the stove for twenty-six years. To be taken to this room was a mark of highest regard that Mr. Richardson could show to a friend. It was indeed sacred to him.

It was my privilege to know Mr. John Richardson intimately from my early childhood. Being an old friend and neighbor of my father's, the late Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, whose house was that marked Urann, on the map (Fig. 8), I went with my father to see Mr. Richardson frequently as a child, and later by myself. Mr. Richardson was a highly cultivated man, with a keen interest in literature and the world, in spite of his secluded life. He was a shrewd observer and keen critic, with a deep fund of humor and sense of fun, bright, vivacious, resourceful, a delightful conversationalist and a good story teller. He was very fond of Scott's novels which, as well as poetry, he frequently quoted. Of very retiring and diffident disposition, he was little known to the public and only occasionally visited a few intimate friends. To his intimates he was cordial and gracious with an old time courtliness

¹An obituary notice of Mr. George Richardson appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript, 29 May, 1861, p. 2. [Signed Dorchester, 28 May 1861. —H. (doubtless Rev. Nathaniel Hall, his pastor).]

of manner that was as captivating as it is uncommon. He was punctilious in observing little details of etiquette to a guest. Always carefully dressed in a black coat and vest, gray trousers, with a high stock and brown wig, in the street he wore a well brushed silk hat of old fashioned type. Straight as an arrow, he moved with a quick elastic step and never showed his age by stoop of shoulder or mental failing, but died in ripe old age with all his powers intact.

Mr. Richardson kept a horse and insisted that he should show a good gait. His carriage was an old-fashioned vehicle, a sort of combination of carryall and wagon, which he spoke of as the "go-cart." "Johnnie," he would call to his man of all work John Hynes, who lived with him for nineteen years, "Johnnie, go hitch up the go-cart." A frequent trip was to see Mr. James Jackson, who was a keen horticulturist, and had a small but choice garden at City Point, South Boston. To see these two old men, both experts, discussing the cultivation, merits or failings of their favorites was a delightful experience. He never took out the horse on Sunday, but Sunday morning, winter and summer, might be seen regularly walking to the Unitarian church on Meeting House Hill, about a mile distant. He regulated his departure so as to arrive at church just in time, and at the close of service was almost the first out, and walked directly and rapidly home. It took a quick walker to overtake him if he had a slight lead. This church, the First Parish Church of Dorchester, was a typical old New England meeting house of which he seemed a natural part. A figure of it is given by Orcutt (p. 225). This building was burned down in 1896, but its worthy successor is built on the same lines of beautiful simplicity.

Mr. Richardson was very fond of animals, and always kept a cat that received solicitous care. In winter he used to feed the gray squirrels with butternuts that he saved from his trees in the autumn. Opening the window in his sitting room he would call in his gentle voice, "Bun, Bun," and a squirrel would soon appear on the sill and take the nut from his hand. He was fond of birds, knew them by their note, and in earlier years kept many loose in a sunny room of his house that he fitted up as an aviary. This room on the east side of the house, seen in Pl. 5 (the two



THE RICHARDSON (EVERETT) HOUSE, BARN AND FRUIT HOUSE, FROM THE SOUTHWEST.



Richardson's home for sixty eight years, up to his death in 1887. The house was built by Colonel Robert Oliver in 1745. It was also for a time the residence of his son, Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Oliver, (p. 187) who is "supposed to have laid out the garden," (Wilder) in the formal old lines that were never departed from. Succeeding the Olivers, the house after an interval, in 1782, passed into the hands of the Reverend Oliver Everett, whose eminent son Edward Everett, was born there 11 April 1794, also Sarah Preston Everett, the mother of Edward Everett Hale, was born there 5 Sept. 1796. Oliver Everett died 19 December 1802 (Dorchester Births, Marriages and Deaths).

A charming old colored cut of the house appeared in "Homes of American Authors" (p. 217). Many figures of the house have been published in local histories and similar works, all being taken from the southwest, as in Pl. 2. The figure in the Everett Centennial is perhaps the best published figure. From the front view it appeared to be a square house; but was in reality L shaped, as shown in Fig. 10. The roof was surmounted by a colonial type of balustrade, ornamented at the posts by a series of "flames" best seen in Pl. 2, and one of which is reproduced (Fig. 9), after Reverend Edward Everett Hale.



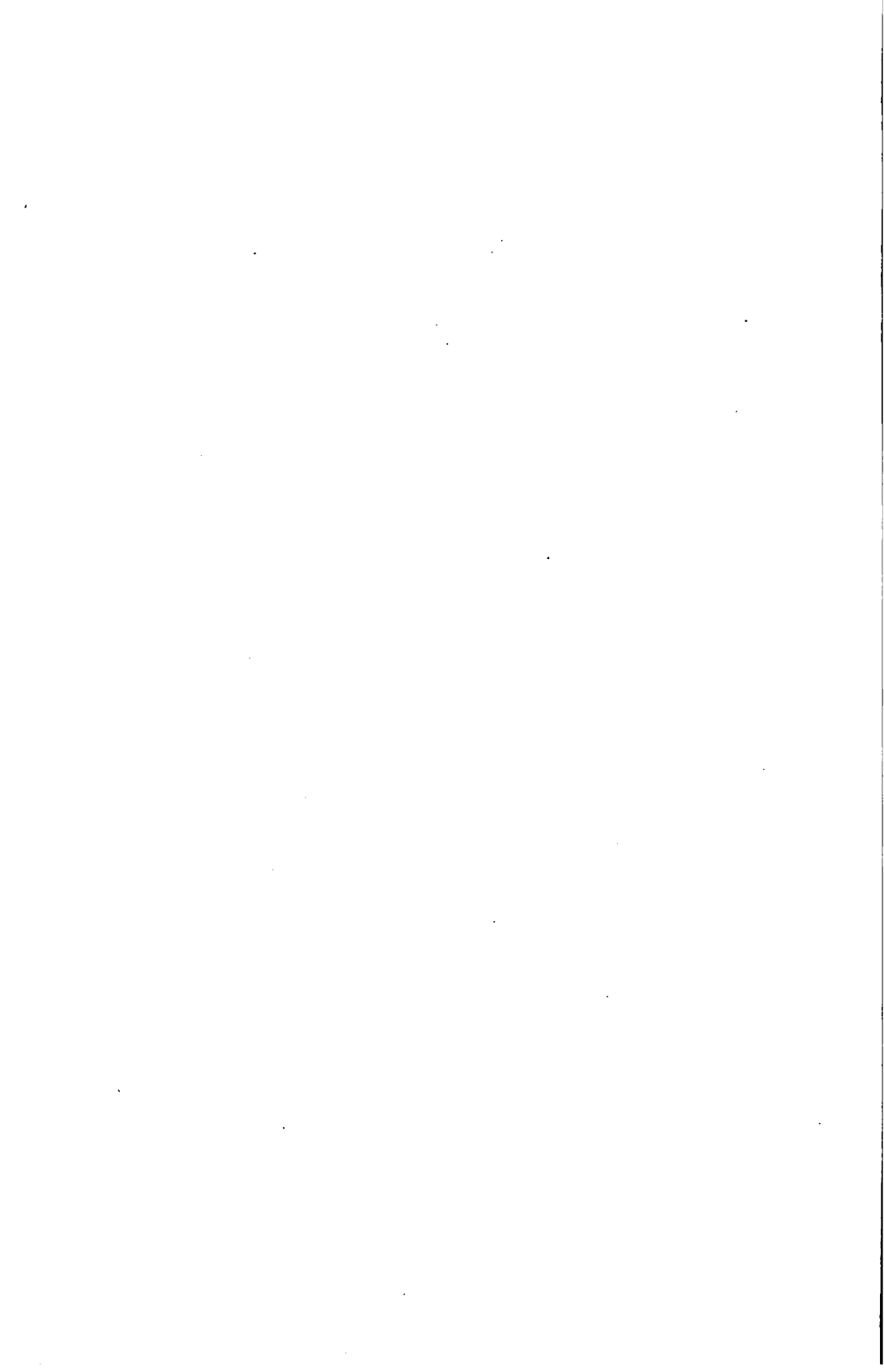
FIG. 9.—One of the "flames" surmounting the balustrade on the roof.

Mr. Richardson kept everything in good repair about the house but apparently never altered anything, so that with its old time dados and mantels, carved banisters, old-fashioned furniture and pictures it remained to the last an example of the fine old mansions of the past. The whole estate bore the marks of a very old place, unmodified in plan by changing time but added to and improved by a man skilled in the arts of horticulture.

As the only published description of the house is a very brief one in the Boston Herald, it is desirable to place something on record. The house, which is shown most clearly in the view taken in winter (Pl. 2), set back some sixty feet from the road on Pond Street and a little nearer to Boston Street. The sur-



THE RICHARDSON (EVERETT) HOUSE IN SUMMER, FROM THE SOUTHWEST.





THE RICHARDSON (EVERETT) HOUSE FROM THE NORTHEAST, INCLUDING PART OF THE GARDEN.

rounding grass plot was bordered by a low paling fence, just within which were fine old buttonwood trees (originally twelve, but in my day some had been cut down), also some spruces, elms and a number of old lilac bushes. Three of the buttonwood trees show respectively a circumference at three feet from the ground of nine feet ten inches, ten feet four inches and ten feet four and one-fourth inches. Being old trees they were quite probably planted by the Olivers. There were two main entrances as shown in Pl. 4, a view taken in summer,¹ one on Boston Street and one on Pond Street; the latter (on the right in Pl. 4), was more frequently used. Approaching the house from Pond Street along a path bordered by box edging and two large lilacs, one made his presence known by the old-fashioned brass knocker, that was never replaced by the new-fangled bell. In all probability the door would open slightly and Mr. Richardson would peep out to see who was there. Then with a ceremonious wave of his hand he would open wide the door and give

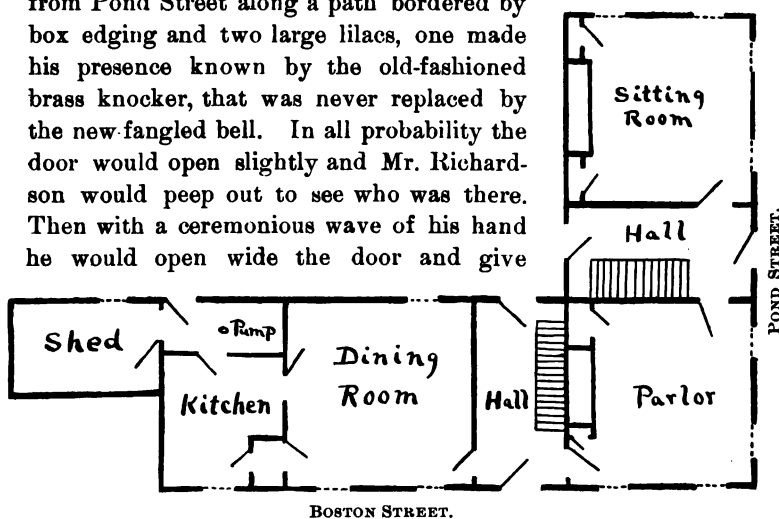


FIG. 10.—Plan of the first story of Mr. Richardson's house, drawn from memory and photographs, but approximately correct.

courtly greeting to his guest. The door opened into a large hall, at the other end of which a second door opened upon an arbor-clad porch covered with grape vines (the arbor seen in Pl. 8).

¹This view was taken some years after Mr. Richardson's death. The fence had been moved back nearer the house, so that a tree appears in the sidewalk, and at least one old buttonwood tree had been cut down. A sign board, near the Pond Street gate, indicates an entrance to Columbia Road, part of the Boston Park System.

A broad staircase with spirally carved banisters led to the second story. On the right was the sitting room (Pl. 6), where Mr. Richardson spent much of his time when in the house. The east windows of this room overlooked the garden, they being the two lower windows seen in the picture of the garden (Pl. 8). To the left of the main hall was the front parlor (Pl. 7), less occupied, but a delightful old-fashioned room with high dado, fireplace, old pictures and a piano with keys muffled, so that Mr. Richardson could practice on it without disturbing the household. The furniture was old-fashioned like that of all the house. The pictures seen in the figures of this room and the sitting room were painted by Mr. George Richardson, who was skilful with brush and pencil. The dining room was in the rear of the house, the two west windows to the left of the Boston Street doorway (Pl. 2) belonging to that room; another window looked into the garden (Pl. 8). From the hall adjacent to the dining room one door opened on to Boston Street (Pl. 2), and a second door faced the garden and is seen open in Pl. 8. A second stairway with spirally carved banisters led from this hall to the second story. The kitchen and shed lay to the north of the dining room (Pls. 2, 5). Upstairs were the large square bedrooms usual in old-time houses. The southwest corner room of Pl. 2, with windows facing south and west, was Mr. Richardson's bedroom, and the southeast corner bedroom, that on the right of Pl. 2, and the two upper windows of Pl. 8, is the room in which Edward Everett was born. From a closet in this room a secret stairway led to a small room above. This stairway was steep, about a foot wide, and was hidden by clothing hung in the closet. In the attic were a servant's room, store rooms and Mr. George Richardson's studio, one window of which is seen on the right in Pl. 5.

An old-fashioned barn, with stable yard in front, lay to the north of the house (Pl. 3); connected with the barn as seen on the left (Pl. 3), was a fruit house, built by Mr. George Richardson. There was no water or gas in the house, but the time-honored pump was in the shed and tool house back of the kitchen. Here were the usual assortment of garden tools, baskets neatly painted a dark green, the owner's garden gloves always stuck on the



MR. RICHARDSON'S SITTING ROOM, THE WINDOW ON RIGHT OVERLOOKED THE GARDEN.



MR. RICHARDSON'S PARLOR, THE PICTURES ON THE WALL WERE PAINTED BY HIS BROTHER.

handles of a large pair of garden shears ready to hand for a sally into the garden. Illumination was by whale oil, or later by cotton seed oil lamps.

This beautiful old house, a gem of antiquity, in the "march of progress" was torn down in 1898 and its site is empty, but close by is a modern three story apartment house. A house of such associations and such a choice example of colonial architecture should have been preserved. Further details in regard to the history of Mr. Richardson's house, and other houses with which it is associated are given on pages 187 to 190.

MR. RICHARDSON'S GARDEN.

The garden (Pl. 8) lay on the east of the house, sloped gently eastward and was perhaps half an acre in extent. It was bounded by the house, barn and connecting fence on the west, a high board fence on the north, and a low paling fence on the east and south. Against this paling fence as seen in Pl. 8, some of his dahlias were grown and to it were tied as a support. In the garden were large grass plots intersected by square cut paths, bordered with box edging, within which were the long flower beds some six to eight feet wide. Excepting for the bulb border and beds of seedlings, all the plants were scattered, in what is called the mixed border system of planting. Peonies occupied salient points. Beyond the garden to the east lay the vegetable garden and orchard, of perhaps two acres in extent. Some fruit trees were also grown in the triangular piece of land opposite the house, bounded by Pond and Cottage Streets (Fig. 8) and always spoken of by the Richardsons as the "triangle." This piece of land belonged to Robert Oliver, but was not part of the Everett property. It was purchased at auction in 1841, by Mr. George Richardson, as recorded in his account book.

Mr. George Richardson took a very active interest in fruit and vegetable growing and planted many varieties of pears, apples, peaches, plums and quinces, various small fruits and vegetables. A favorite was some gooseberries called "Roaring Lions," that he imported. His brief diary, from 1819 on, is full of allusions

to the varieties of fruits and vegetables in the garden, and dates of planting or grafting. They made annually several barrels of wine from currants, red, white and black, also from grapes.

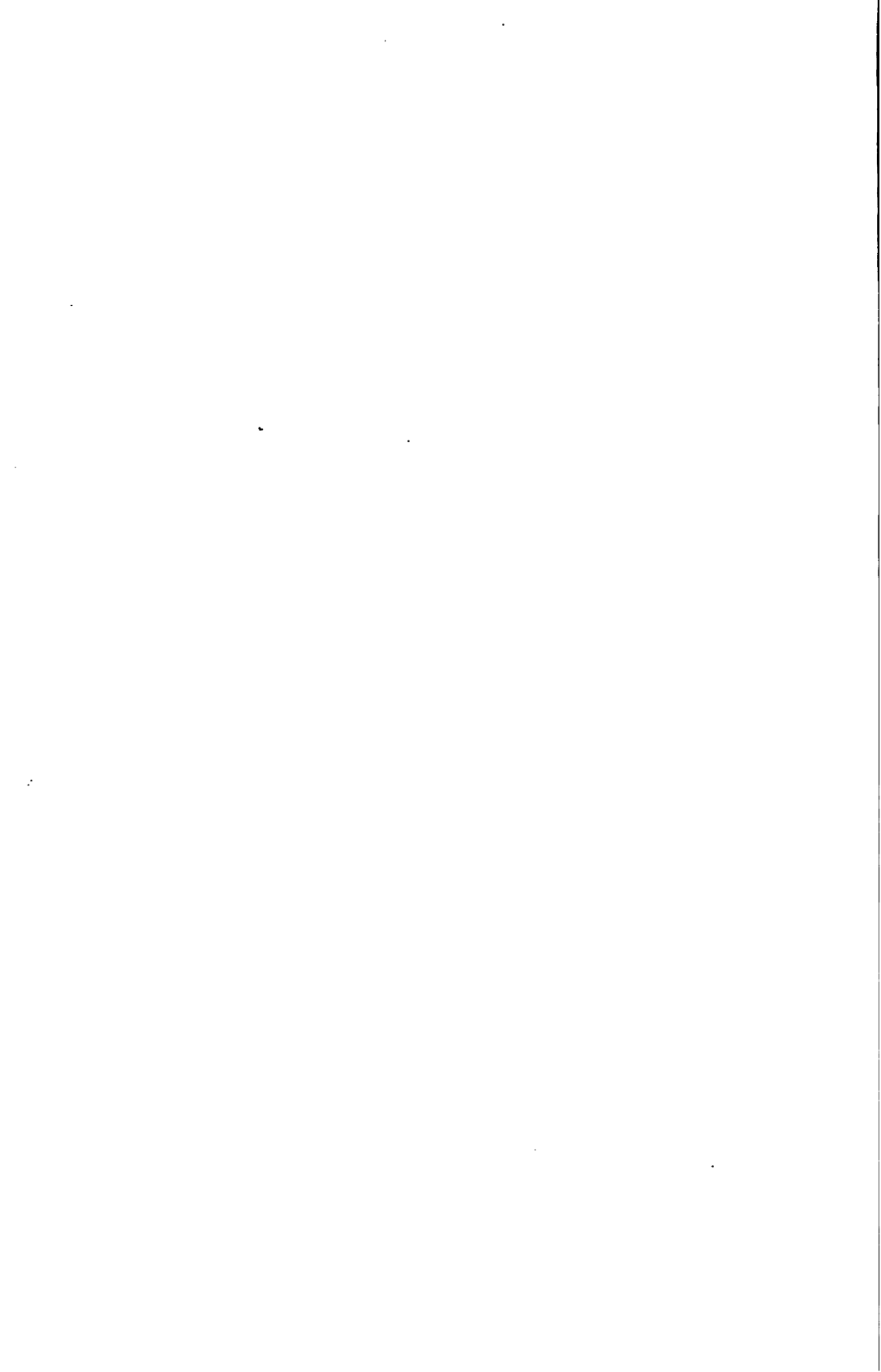
In his diary for many years Mr. George Richardson noted the arrival of the blue-birds, swallows, wrens, bob-o-lincolns (as he called them) and other birds. He noted also details of frost and weather in general, how much the hog weighed when dressed, and similar homely things which are full of interest coming from so far back and written with a loving interest in country life. John Richardson took an interest in fruit, especially pears, but his chief interest was in flowers.

Mr. Richardson had a perfect passion for horticulture and every plant in his garden that he loved so well was a real personality to him. His absorption in this interest lasted to the very end, for visiting him in his short illness, a few days before his death, the old subject was brought up just the same. It was a great treat to the horticulturist to visit his garden, for in it were large numbers of rare as well as common plants, and choice seedlings, all grown to a perfection that in itself gives to the experienced almost or quite as much pleasure as qualities of rareness or novelty. A walk with him about the garden meant a lingering at every step to consider the merits, the history or some cultural point in regard to the plants that were as his children. His taste was refined and exceptionally critical, so that a plant to meet his approval must have real merits, his commendation was a guarantee of excellence. The love of gardening was born with him, when a child he used to plant date seeds in his father's yard in Boston, and the fascination of raising plants from seed and thus producing new and improved varieties always clung to him. By this means he raised many choice dahlias, phloxes, deutzias and especially peonies, but it was not only these, everything that came to hand he tried to raise from seed. Peonies take about four to six years to bloom from seed, yet when nearly ninety he planted peony seeds just the same as in earlier years and some of his posthumous seedlings are amongst the best. Double flowers he especially admired, and he never cared for the single dahlias and peonies that have come to the fore in recent years.

He rarely picked his flowers except for a visitor and never had



MR. RICHARDSON'S HOUSE AND GARDEN FROM THE EAST; DAHLIAS, ISMENES, IRIS SIBIRICA AND A PEONY ARE SEEN IN THE FOREGROUND.



many cut flowers in the house.¹ A small glass vase on the piano in the sitting room usually had two or three blooms in it; but these were quite as likely to be from some other garden as from his own. Some look at a flower as something to be picked; but he preferred to leave them in the garden. An amusing story is told by a relative of his and since connection of my own, who went to ask him for a peony to use in designing for embroidery. He took her into the garden filled with splendid blooms, cut one and said: "Handle it very carefully or it will drop to pieces." He always refused to sell plants; but gave roots to a few garden friends.

Labels were an exception in Mr. Richardson's garden, for he rarely labeled anything, most of the plants being marked by a stick to locate their position, or not at all. He never in my experience spoke of any of his seedling peonies by name, but called them the early white, pink or crimson, etc. Mr. Richardson never kept any garden records as far as I am aware; but many details preceding my own time are gathered from my father's garden catalogue, which, beginning in 1857, contains at that and later dates many entries of plants received from Mr. Richardson.

Dahlias were special favorites, both the pompon and show varieties, and in autumn his garden was ablaze with choice blooms of rich and delicate colors. I have a shingle on which he wrote in a firm, clear hand, in 1887, the year of his death, a list of the dahlias in the garden, some twenty-six varieties including seedlings; he also indicated the number of plants of each variety, which added up made forty-seven. His dahlias were always grown to a single stem and usually trained against the fence espalier fashion, as shown in Pl. 8. He raised many fine seedling dahlias, seven of which I named and they are as follows:

Archibald Geike. Dark maroon crimson, pompon, very round and full, two colors showing, perfectly double.

Charles Lyell. Rich garnet red, pompon, perfectly double, extremely regular and well formed.

¹ The flowers seen in the interior views, Pl. 6 and 7, were from his garden, or my own; but were placed there for his funeral services.

E. Hitchcock. Large blush pink, tall grower, perfectly double.

Henry Rogers. Blush pink, petals quilled, very high flower, round as a ball, perfectly double.

J. D. Dana. Extremely dark crimson, pompon, very round, perfectly double.

J. D. Whitney. Crimson, perfectly double, rather flat flower, but very evenly set, dwarf habit.

Jules Marcou. Rich scarlet crimson, large, perfectly double, great bloomer.

A First Class Certificate of Merit was awarded the Richardson seedling dahlias Archibald Geike, and Charles Lyell, by the Society at the Annual Exhibition, 16-19 September 1884. The names however were not mentioned in the report, Transactions of this Society for 1884, part 2, p. 216 and 238.

When Tigridias were in bloom his garden in the early morning was ablaze with hundreds of blooms of red, yellow, orange and white varieties, though always with the red centre. He was very successful in carrying the bulbs through the winter, which all are not.

Ismene calithena was a favorite bulb with Mr. Richardson and he grew them in quantities, some being seen in the foreground of Pl. 8. This is a much overlooked plant, as it has fine white fragrant flowers, rich, broad foliage, and is very easily grown. The bulbs are planted in the open ground in May and dug up after frost. They should be kept in a warm, dry place in winter as they are sensitive to frost and dampness.

Bulbs always had a special fascination for him and in spring his border of hardy bulbs was a treat to see with its masses of bloom. The bulb border on the south side of a high board fence, was about one hundred feet long, and eight or nine feet wide. Close to the fence were fine clumps of crown imperials, red or yellow; next in front the whole length of the bed was filled with hyacinths and tulips. In an old bed of course the hyacinths were not of exhibition grade, but they made a splendid mass of bloom that was a feast of perfume and color. In the foreground of the bed were thousands of *Scilla Sibirica*, crocuses, mainly yellow, and a few other kinds of bulbs that made

a wide ribbon of color. He said this bed had been essentially as I knew it for thirty years, and it made one of the finest displays I ever saw. Besides the bulb border, bulbs were planted in bunches all about the formal garden. Especially prominent on account of their abundance were snow-drops, *Narcissus bicolor* var. *Horsfieldi*, *N. cernuus*, *N. poeticus*, *Frittilaria meleagris*, *Scilla nonscripta*, pink and blue, and Bybloemen tulips. He was delighted with *Chionodoxa luciliae* when he first saw it in bloom from bulbs his friend Mr. John C. Hovey gave him.

A rare and choice plant that he prized was the double white perennial rocket, *Hesperis matronalis* var. *flore pleno*, of which there were numerous clumps about the garden. It is a difficult plant to grow and yet he grew it without protection. When propagating he divided it in the early autumn. This plant, as shown by records, he grew for at least thirty years.

Auriculas are somewhat difficult plants to cultivate, but he had a patch in the open ground, the flowers of which were a beautiful bluish purple, with a white mealy eye. They were a constant pleasure when in bloom.

Fine masses of perennial candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens*, that he raised from seed were scattered about the garden, and made showy patches of whiteness.

Phloxes he admired especially and grew large masses of *Phlox subulata*, pink, white, and white with a pink eye. He grew also the delicate blue *Phlox divaricata*. The tall summer phloxes, *P. paniculata*, were a special interest to him and he raised many good ones from seed. A bed devoted to these seedlings was always an interesting spot. The dull or magenta colored flowers he hated; "gizzard colored," as he aptly and quaintly termed them. To suit him the head must be large and full, the individual blooms round and well filled out, not "wind-milly," as he termed those with radial gaps in the corolla.

There were many irises in his garden, German, Spanish, English, and a few species, of these last, *Iris pallida*, *Sibirica* and *cristata* were favorites.

One of his most valuable productions from seed was a choice double white *Deutzia crenata* that I have named *John Richardson*. The flowers are individually very large, perfectly double,

almost entirely free from any trace of pink in the outer petals, and a profuse bloomer. Another virtue of this fine seedling is its extreme hardiness. *Deutzia crenata* and its varieties are apt to winter-kill badly, but in twenty-two years' experience with this seedling, *John Richardson*, it has never been materially injured.

Christmas roses, *Helleborus niger*, were favorite plants with Mr. Richardson. He grew them outside without protection, and in a mild spell in winter they were often full of blooms. As usual he raised seedlings, but nothing noteworthy.

Peonies, being such an important feature, are treated under a separate heading.

Mr. Richardson's Peonies.

Peonies were his special interest and he cherished them as the pride of the garden, which indeed they were. He grew *Pæonia tenuifolia*, both the single and the double form, *Pæonia officinalis* var. *rubra*, the double old garden favorite, and var. *alba*, the charming variety that is delicate pink on opening and turns white before fading. He also grew a few good tree peonies, but as far as known did not raise any seedlings of this class.

The *Pæonia albiflora* varieties, or Chinese peonies, were his specialty. He did not have a great many, some forty plants, at least in later years. In addition, however, he had his unbloomed seedlings, "candidates for fame," as he called them with a twinkle in his eye. After his death I took from his seed-bed some seventy-five unbloomed seedlings. This shows remarkable activity and a devotion to horticulture in a man nearly ninety years of age.

It was a treat to go into Mr. Richardson's garden with him in peony season. He would talk of his favorites with the spirit of an enthusiast, undimmed by advancing years, and even when not in bloom the flower in all its perfection was before his mind's eye and he would discuss them as he passed the plants in a walk about the garden.

A seedling peony had to be of high quality of excellence to meet his approval. He would have nothing else and singles or semi-doubles were discarded at once. Color and form to his

mind were of first importance as in other flowers; habit of growth was also an important character. It may be fairly said that an unusual number of his seedlings have a fine upright habit of growth, a most desirable feature. Another feature of Mr. Richardson's seedlings is their striking vigor of growth. In a collection of over two hundred varieties lately I was able to pick out the Richardson seedlings almost without exception by their superior size, and when mistaken it was because other varieties had a similar growth. In the measurements given in the following description of eighteen of his seedlings the average is thirty-seven and four-tenths inches in height from the ground to the flower, but not including the flower in the measurement. Records of peonies in his garden go back to 1857, when some fragrant forms are recorded, but for how much longer he had been growing them is not known. From 1857 to his death was thirty years, and in that period at least he was actively raising seedlings. According to George Paul peonies began to be cultivated by florists in England about 1840, and in 1855, so far as Paul could ascertain, there were twenty-four double varieties in the garden catalogues in England. In France and Belgium peonies were actively grown somewhat earlier. Paul says in France about 1824. It is seen therefore that Mr. Richardson's experience covered a large part of the period of active peony growing up to the time of his death.

The Richardson peonies are generally considered as late bloomers; but this is only partially true. Some seedlings are early as well as some late, so that they cover the whole season of this type. This year they were in bloom continuously, without a break, from the fourth of June into the early part of July, a full month. What the stock was from which he raised his remarkable seedlings is an interesting question, which cannot be answered with assurance. Most of his plants were seedlings as they were known to me. He had, however, a few good old peonies, *Festiva* (Donkelaer, 1838), which measured this year 28½ inches in height to the flower; *Festiva Maxima* (Mieliez, 1851),¹ which

¹ Members of the American Peony Society, who have looked into the matter, say that *Festiva Maxima* originated with Mieliez. Authorities differ however, as George Paul says: "In Belgium an amateur, M. Buyck, about 1835 produced, amongst others, *Festiva Maxima*."

measured $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the flower; *Pottsii Plena*¹ (Calot? 1857), crimson, which measured $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the flower, and a double white seedling raised by Mr. Carter of the Botanic Garden in Cambridge, which measured this year 36 inches to the flower. The foliage, habit and size of many of the Richardson seedlings resemble *Festiva Maxima* so closely that I am strongly of the opinion that they contain blood from that fine old standard. It is quite likely that the other varieties mentioned enter more or less into their composition.

To all who have grown them, Mr. Richardson's seedling peonies stand amongst the very best productions of this fine flower. As the late Francis Parkman, eminent historian and horticulturist, said to me: "They are unique." A judgment from one fitted by his own experience to express a critical opinion.

As already stated Mr. John Richardson did not name his seedlings, and even in peonies there are but few exceptions. These exceptions² are in varieties that he exhibited before the Society, when it is quite possible that he was requested to give them some name. These names he never afterward used so far as I am aware. Most of his seedling peonies were named by his friend Mr. John C. Hovey, who grew and exhibited them, or by myself. As there is so much confusion in nomenclature from duplication of names in common usage, I selected the names of eminent scientific men, hoping thus to avoid possible duplication. As many years ago I named and distributed some varieties already named without knowing that fact, I give my names as synonyms in such cases in the following description of the several varieties.

Mr. Thurlow states that Mr. Richardson bequeathed his peonies to Mr. John C. Hovey, but that is a mistake. Mr. Hovey received what peonies he had as a gift during Mr. Richardson's

¹ There are, as Mr. A. H. Fewkes writes me, no less than six peonies named *Pottsii*, or a variety of the same. Mr. Richardson's *Pottsii* is a rich deep crimson and double, though some stamens show in the centre. Individual blooms vary a good deal in the degree of doubleness, the extremes being almost perfectly double and semi-double, probably Calot's, 1857.

² By the records of the Society he exhibited under name the varieties *Dorchester*, and *Rubra Superba*. He also exhibited *Perfection* but without name.

life. Mr. Hovey when visiting me shortly before his death in 1894, on request dictated the names he had given and the descriptions of the Richardson seedlings in his possession. As this is an important matter to peony growers his description is given at this point.

John C. Hovey's description of Richardson Peonies in his garden.

"1. **Perfection.** Blush rose, Silver Medal, 23 June 1869. [For the change required in this name, see p. 183.]

"2. **Dorchester.** Bright rose, darker in centre. First Class Certificate of Merit, 9 July 1870.

"3. **Grandiflora.** Light rose, flat flower. First Class Certificate of Merit, 26 June 1883.

"4. **Rubra Superba.** Bright crimson carmine. First Class Certificate of Merit, 20 June 1871.

"5. **Norfolk.** Flowers large, cup shaped, light rose, darker centre, compact growing plant.

"6. **Francis B. Hayes.** Bright rose.

"7. **Cambridge.** Small bright rose, late. [Of this variety I have not been able to locate authentic specimens.]

"8. **John Richardson.** Small very double rose, like high Perfection, rose, blush edge.

"9. **Milton Hill.** Blush white, very double. First Class Certificate of Merit, 27 June 1891.

"These are all the Richardson seedlings that Mr. Hovey has."

DESCRIPTION OF MR. RICHARDSON'S SEEDLING PEONIES.

The following is a list with descriptions of the Richardson seedling peonies,¹ with synonyms where such exist and the awards they have received; these awards were all made by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, so that for the sake of brevity the name of the Society is not further mentioned. The date of blooming this year is given, and also the height. The height was taken in August, and measures the distance from the

¹ A few posthumous seedlings that were single I have named, but as Mr. Richardson did not care for the singles, I omit them, also, though good, they are not distinct enough to be included in such a set.

ground to the calyx of the flower; with the flower, therefore, some inches would be added as a maximum height. The whole set of eighteen varieties was exhibited this year before the Society either on June 5, 11, or 21-22.

Charles Sedgwick Minot. Named by me. Clear satin pink, large very beautiful flower, guard petals broad, centre petals narrower, as long as guards, very high, round flower, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas showing, very sweet scented, erect habit, a profuse bloomer. Posthumous seedling, in bloom 9 June 1904, height to flower 40 inches. Exhibited by me 11 June 1904, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Named for Professor Charles Sedgwick Minot, embryologist, and a skilful grower of peonies.

Dorchester. Named by Mr. John Richardson (Synonym *George W. Tryon*). Light clear pink, cream color in centre, primrose yellow in centre when opening, sweet scented, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas showing, medium sized flower, stands very erect on stem, free bloomer. In bloom 18 June 1904, height to flower 36 inches. Exhibited by Mr. Richardson, 9 July 1870, when it was awarded a First Class Certificate of Merit. Transactions of the Society for 1870, p. 51 and 96. Named for the locality in which it originated.

Francis B. Hayes. Named by Mr. John C. Hovey. Bright rose, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible, central petals as long as guard petals, some lacinated petals with broad petals in centre, a fine bloomer, rather weak in the stem. In bloom 18 June 1904. Height to flower 27 inches, a measurement kindly sent me by Mrs. E. M. Gill. Named for the late Mr. Francis B. Hayes, a former President of this Society, and a patron of Horticulture.

Ferdinand Stoliczka. Named by me. Guard petals broad, a most delicate shell-pink, central petals narrower, erect, exquisite white, with a slight primrose cast, rounded at the tips, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas showing, free bloomer, flowers erect, plant of vigorous growth, very choice. In bloom 10 June 1904, height to flower 27 inches; this measurement is inadequate as my plants had been recently moved and all the best blooms cut. A stronger plant in Dr. Walcott's garden measures 40½ inches to



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RICHARDSON SEEDLING : HENRY WOODWARD.

the flower. Exhibited by me 11 June 1904, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Named for Ferdinand Stoliczka, a European palæontologist.

George B. Sowerby. Named by me. Guard petals delicate pink, in a flat row like a saucer, inner petals long, narrower, wrinkled, lacinated, white shaded yellow, very double, no stamens, but the stigmas are visible in centre when fully opened, very vigorous, free bloomer. Mr. Richardson aptly compared it to ice cream in a pink saucer. Very early, in bloom 4 June 1904, blooms have been supplied for decorations when no other Chinese peonies were to be found in the market, height to flower $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Not one of the best of Mr. Richardson's seedlings, but desirable on account of its earliness and is a fine flower. Named for George B. Sowerby, an English conchologist.

Grandiflora. Named by Mr. John C. Hovey (synonym *Alpheus Hyatt*). Beautiful light rose pink, cupped in opening, quite flat when fully opened, petals nearly uniform throughout, very large, I have had flowers measuring nine inches in diameter. Flowers tend to bend over from their own weight and a not very rigid stem, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas showing, a splendid flower. In bloom 15 June 1904, height to flower $43\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Exhibited by Mr. John C. Hovey, 26 June 1883, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Transactions of the Society for 1883, Part 2, p. 222 and 252. Named for its size, perhaps the greatest in diameter of any of the Richardson seedlings.

H. A. Hagen. Named by me. Bright, clear pink, cupped, exquisite color, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible, all petals of a uniform color, flowers stand up very erect on the plant, quite close to "Norfolk"; but more uniform in color throughout. Posthumous seedling of Mr. Richardson's. In bloom 17 June 1904, height to flower $32\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Named for the late Dr. H. A. Hagen, entomologist.

Henry Woodward. (Pl. 9.) Named by me. Light blush pink, lighter in centre, very large, rather flat flower, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible, of good habit, but not as erect as some others. In bloom 21 June 1904, height to flower $42\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Named for Dr. Henry Woodward, an English

palæontologist. A good figure of this peony, here reproduced, is given by Miller.

Isaac Lea. Rose pink with a slight purplish cast, perfectly double, under good culture develops some very large flowers. A good bloomer. In bloom 18 June 1904, height to flower 37½ inches. Named for Isaac Lea, an American conchologist.

John Richardson. Named by Mr. John C. Hovey for the originator of these choice peonies (synonym *Sven Lovén*). Blush rose, very double, fine form, color uniform throughout, no stamens or stigmas visible, erect habit. In bloom 18 June 1904, height to flower 40½ inches. Exhibited by me, 21 June 1904, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit.

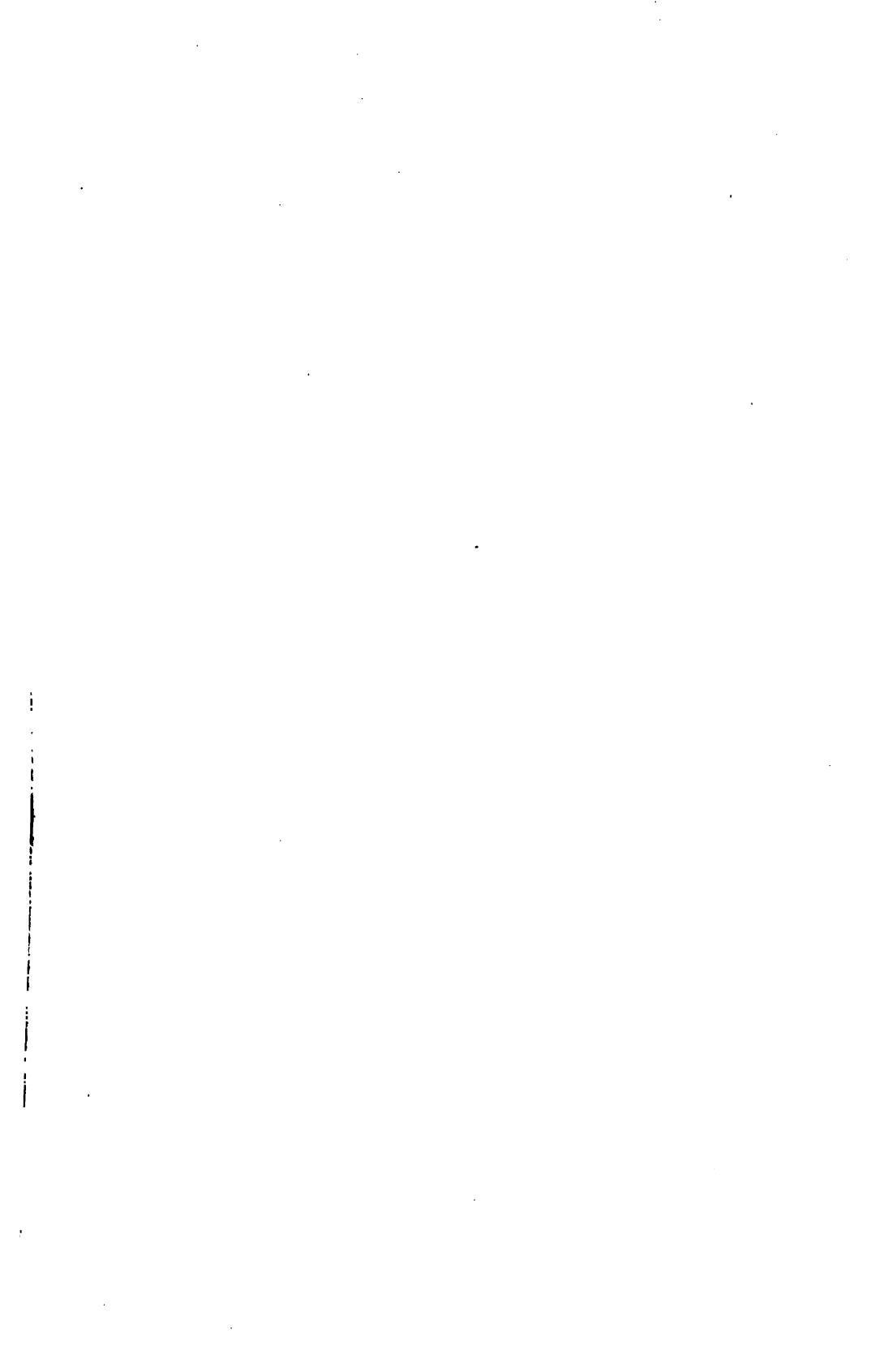
Milton Hill. (Pl. 10.) Named by Mr. John C. Hovey (synonym *Augustus A. Gould*). Flowers large, clear, soft flesh color throughout, a little pinker if shaded, or opened in the house, turns nearly white in the sun. Centre creamy in the opening bud, cupped in form, central petals set like a rose, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible. A wonderfully beautiful flower, one of the choicest of known peonies. Plant of fine erect habit, and a good bloomer. Exhibited by John C. Hovey, 27 June 1891, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Transactions of the Society for 1891, part 2, p. 276 and 295. In the Transactions, p. 276, the description reads, "with a few dark crimson markings in the centre." These markings must be very exceptional in this variety, as I have grown it since 1884 and have never seen crimson markings on any part of the flower. A late variety, in bloom 21 June, 1904, and considerably later, height to flower 33 inches. Named for Milton Hill, one of the most beautiful suburbs of Boston.

Norfolk. (Pl. 11, from a photograph kindly furnished by Mr. J. Woodward Manning.) Named by John C. Hovey (synonym *F. M. Balfour*). Flowers large, cup shaped, light rose pink, darker in centre, an extremely beautiful color. Perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas showing, a profuse bloomer, plant of good habit, one of the choicest of the Richardson seedlings. In bloom 18 June 1904, height to flower 35½ inches. Named Norfolk for the county in which the town of Dorchester (now part of the city of Boston) is situated.



RICHARDSON SEEDLING : MILTON HILL.







RICHARDSON SEEDLING : NORFOLK.

Paul Fischer. Named by me. Bright rose pink, perfectly double, cupped, no stamens or stigmas visible, especially attractive in the opening bud, medium sized flower, free bloomer, very erect. Foliage broad, vigorous and very distinct in character. This variety has unfortunately a tendency to be bull-headed, which is a serious fault, but it is such a distinct variety and yields such attractive flowers that it is well worth growing in spite of this fault. In bloom 9 June 1904, height to flower 32 inches. Named for Paul Fischer, a French conchologist.

Richardson's Perfection. Named *Perfection* by Mr. Richardson or Mr. John C. Hovey; which, is not certain. As another and older European variety is called *Queen's Perfection*, and in catalogues is usually listed under the name "Perfection," I throw out the name of the present variety as practically a duplication, and alter the name to *Richardson's Perfection*, thus retaining the original name yet giving it a distinctive standing. (Synonym *Karl A. Zittel*.) Flowers medium sized, light blush pink, lighter in centre, shaded to yellow at base of central petals. Perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible. A full high flower, fragrant, of very upright habit, and a free bloomer, an extremely choice all round peony. Bud before opening very high as are many of the Richardson seedlings, and with a curious dull green calyx striped with darker green. In bloom 19 June 1904, height to flower 38½ inches. Exhibited by Mr. Richardson 23 June 1869, when it was awarded a Silver Medal. Transactions of the Society for 1869, p. 34 and 66. In the Transactions the name *Perfection* does not appear, but we read, "John Richardson showed a fine seedling herbaceous peony (no. 1)." The name therefore was probably added later, very possibly by Mr. Hovey. The Society record also reads, "of the many named varieties in cultivation but few equal this." The name combines that of the originator, with the quality, well expressed by the word *Perfection*.

R. P. Whitfield. Named by me. Light pink, shaded to lighter in centre, rather flat flower, perfectly double, no stamens or stigmas visible, free bloomer. In bloom 20 June 1904, height to flower 40 inches. Named for Prof. R. P. Whitfield, palæontologist in the American Museum, New York.

Rubra Superba. Named by Mr. John Richardson (synonym *W. G. Binney*). Bright crimson carmine, with no trace of purple tinge, a fine clear color, uniform color throughout, all petals rose-shaped, cupped, no stamens or stigmas visible, flower of good size, fragrant, very erect, plant robust. Considered one of the best of all crimson peonies and the only one of this color in the set. In bloom 17 June 1904, and much later, height to flower 41 inches. Exhibited by Mr. Richardson 20 June 1871, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Transactions of the Society for 1871, p. 64 and 111. Named for its color and quality.

Samuel Henshaw. (Pl. 12.) Named by me. Outer petals clear rose pink, tinged with white, inner petals pink and white intermingled, the white predominating, very large and full flower, a little low in the centre, in hot sun turns nearly or quite white throughout. Very large and of wonderful vigor, the stem nearly as large as a lady's little finger, stands upright through heavy wind and rain unharmed, of very distinctive character. To get best results it should be shaded from hot sun, disbudded and freely manured. It is then a magnificent peony. In bloom 20 June 1904, height to flower 34 inches; the tallest blooms much exceeded this measurement, but had been cut for exhibition. Exhibited by me 21 June 1904, when it was awarded a Silver Medal. Posthumous seedling of Mr. Richardson's, named for Mr. Samuel Henshaw, entomologist and Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, at Harvard University. (See p. 190).

Walter Faxon. Clear bright pink, brighter in centre, the most exquisite shade of pink I have seen in a peony, very double, but a few stamens show in the centre, no stigmas visible, cupped, a profuse bloomer. Lateral buds develop with the leading buds, so that beautiful clusters are produced. One of the very best and most distinctive of Mr. Richardson's choice productions. In bloom 15 June 1904, height to flower 40½ inches. Exhibited by me 21 June 1904, when it received a First Class Certificate of Merit. Named for Dr. Walter Faxon, zoölogist.



RICHARDSON SEEDLING : SAMUEL HENSHAW.

PLANTS IN MR. RICHARDSON'S GARDEN.

A list of plants in Mr. Richardson's garden in 1887, the year of his death; taken from a list I prepared at that time.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Achillea tomentosa.</i> | <i>Cassia Marylandica.</i> |
| <i>Achimenes.</i> | <i>Chionodoxa lucilæ.</i> |
| <i>Acidanthera bicolor.</i> | <i>Clematis Alpina.</i> |
| <i>Aconitum Napellus.</i> | “ garden varieties. |
| <i>Actæa spicata</i> var. <i>rubra.</i> | <i>Colchicum autumnale.</i> |
| <i>Adiantum pedatum.</i> | “ <i>variegatum.</i> |
| <i>Adlumia cirrhosa.</i> | <i>Convallaria majalis.</i> |
| <i>Adonis vernalis</i> , in quantity and seedlings. | <i>Cornus Mas.</i> |
| <i>Allium</i> , several species. | <i>Crocuses</i> , in profusion, especially yellow. |
| <i>Alyssum saxatile.</i> | <i>Dahlias</i> , double, of which he was very fond, some 26 varieties, including seedlings. |
| <i>Amaryllis Belladonna.</i> | <i>Delphinium formosum.</i> |
| “ <i>formosissima.</i> | <i>Deutzia crenata</i> , double seedlings, including the seedling which I named “John Richardson.” |
| “ <i>Hallii.</i> | <i>Deutzia gracilis.</i> |
| <i>Anemone Japonica.</i> | <i>Dianthus barbatus</i> vars. |
| “ <i>Pennsylvanica.</i> | “ in variety. |
| <i>Antirrhinum</i> , annuals. | <i>Dicentra spectabilis.</i> |
| <i>Aquilegia chrysantha.</i> | <i>Dictamnus frazinella</i> , purple and white. |
| “ hybrids. | <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> , pink and white in quantity. |
| <i>Arabis albidæ.</i> | <i>Dodecatheon Meadia</i> , rose and white. |
| “ “ var. <i>variegata.</i> | <i>Euonymus radicans</i> var. <i>variegata.</i> |
| <i>Asters</i> , a few perennial natives and garden annuals. | <i>Eupatorium ageratoides.</i> |
| <i>Aspidium acrostichoides.</i> | <i>Freesia refracta</i> , in the house in winter. |
| <i>Astilbe Japonica.</i> | <i>Fritillaria imperialis</i> , yellow and red. |
| <i>Astrantia major.</i> | <i>Fritillaria Meleagris</i> , red and white, and seedlings. |
| <i>Azalea viscosa.</i> | <i>Funkia ovata.</i> |
| <i>Begonias</i> , a few house varieties. | “ <i>subcordata.</i> |
| <i>Brodicæa congesta.</i> | <i>Fuschias</i> , in variety, a favorite with him. |
| <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , as box edging. | <i>Galium asprellum.</i> |
| <i>Calycanthus Florida</i> , including seedlings. | |
| <i>Campanula Carpatica</i> , blue and white. | |
| <i>Campanula medium</i> (Canterbury bells), blue and white in quantity. | |
| <i>Campanula persicifolia</i> , blue and white. | |
| <i>Campanula rotundifolia.</i> | |

- Gentiana acaulis.*
Geranium sanguineum.
Gladiolus gandavensis, varieties.
Globularia vulgaris.
Helleborus niger, in abundance, including seedlings.
Hemerocallis flava.
 " *fulva* var. *variegata*.
Hepatica triloba.
Hesperis matronalis var. *flore pleno* alba, a choice, rare old plant, in abundance.
Hyacinthus amethystinus.
 " *botryoides*, blue and white.
 " *candicans.*
 " *monstrosus.*
 " *moschatus.*
 " *orientalis*, garden varieties in quantity.
Hypericum Kalmianum.
Iberis sempervirens, a seedling of fine quality.
Iris anglica, varieties.
 " *cristata.*
 " *Germanica*, varieties.
 " *Hispanica*, varieties.
 " *pallida.*
 " *Sibirica.*
 " *Sibirica* var. *sanguinea.*
 " *Virginiana.*
Ismene calithena, in quantity.
Kalmia latifolia.
Lantanas, several in pots.
Leucojum vernum.
Lilium canadense.
 " *candidum*, in quantity.
 " *lancifolium*, in quantity.
 " *longiflorum.*
 " *martagon* var. *album.*
 " *Philadelphicum.*
 " *superbum.*
 " *tenuifolium*, a special favorite.
Lobelia cardinalis.
Lonicera, several vines trained on buildings.
Lychnis chalcidonica, single and double.
Lychnis Haageana.
Mertensia virginica.
Milla biflora.
Montbretia crocosmiflora.
Myosotis palustris.
Narcissus bicolor var. *Horsfieldi*, a favorite, in quantity.
Narcissus biflorus.
 " *cernuus*, a charming early species, too little known.
Narcissus var. *Emperor* and *Empress.*
 " *odorus* var. *Campernelle.*
 " *poeticus*, in quantity.
Opuntia sp. hardy.
Pæonia albiflora, a few old varieties; *Festiva*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Potsii-plena*, numerous choice seedlings as described, and at the time of his death about 75 unbloomed seedlings.
Pæonia Moutan, several good varieties.
Pæonia officinalis var. *rubra.*
 " " " *alba.*
 " *tenuifolia*, single.
 " " double.
Papaver orientale.
Pelargoniums, a few garden varieties.
Phegopteris Dryopteris.
Philadelphus coronaria.
Phlox divaricata.
 " *paniculata*, some fine varieties and seedlings, always seedlings coming on.
Phlox subulata, several varieties.
Platycodon grandiflorum, blue and white, in quantity.
Polemonium reptans.
Polygonatum giganteum.
Primula auricula.
 " *officinalis.*
Rosa rugosa.
 " *setigera.*
 " dwarf Scotch, white.

- Roses*, several hybrid perpetuals, also old-fashioned June roses.
Scilla nonscripta, blue, white and pink in abundance.
Scilla Sibirica, in profusion.
Sanguinaria Canadensis.
Saxifraga palmata.
Sedum Nevii.
 " *spectabilis*.
Seriocarpus solidagineus.
Spiræa filipendula.
 " " var. *flore pleno*.
 " *prunifolia*.
 " *ulmaria*.
Stellaria holostea.
Syringa Persica.
 " *vulgaris*, purple and white.
- Taxus baccata* var. *Canadensis*.
Thalictrum anemonoides.
Thymus serpyllum.
Tigridias, lemon, orange, crimson, and white, in profusion.
Trillium erythrocarpum.
 " *grandiflorum*, in large clumps, a special favorite.
Tulips, many garden varieties in abundance.
Veronica, two species.
Viburnum opulus.
Viola, several species.
Weigelia rosea.
Yucca filamentosa.
Zephyranthes rosea.

HISTORY OF THE RICHARDSON (EVERETT) HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED HOUSES, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THEIR OWNERS.

The history of the Richardson or Everett House, as we will now call it, and the historical houses with which it is intimately associated is so interesting, both during colonial and later times, that it is well worth consideration. I write it the more freely because it can only be gathered by consulting a number of sources of information, and collating the same.

Mr. James H. Stark of Dorchester, who has done much by his publications to perpetuate the old landmarks and records of Boston, worked out a careful history of the several owners and residents of the Everett House. Records from the Registry of Deeds are given in his paper, but as they are in print it did not seem necessary to repeat them. Further information was gathered from Paige, Oliver, Harris and other sources as noted.

"About 1737, Robert Oliver, a wealthy planter from Antigua [West Indies], settled in Dorchester.[William H. Whitmore cites records of purchases of land in Dorchester by Robert Oliver in 1738, and at later dates, and a petition by him in 1739 as a house owner to the town of Dorchester.] He brought a wife,

Anne¹, and one son Thomas, who became later the last Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Massachusetts. . . . Robert bought a number of pieces of land [in Dorchester], of which 30 acres had been the property of Comfort Foster; and on this homestead lot, he built in 1745, a fine mansion which took the place of a more modest house. [Pl. 2]. . . . Tradition records that he brought many black slaves with him, and dwells with scornful pity upon the fact that they carried burdens on their heads in ignorance of the proper use of a Yankee wheelbarrow." (Stark). Three of his slaves, named Ann, Cambridge and Betty, according to Trask are buried in the old North Cemetery in Dorchester. In his paper Trask comments on Oliver's slaves, and their method of working.

"Robert Oliver, Esq., 3rd son of Colonel Richard Oliver of Antigua . . . married at St. Johns [Antigua] 3 Feb. 1722, Ann Brown, dau. of James Brown of Antigua by Eliz.[abeth] his wife, which Eliz.[abeth] Brown, Wid. married 2ndly in 1707, Isaac Royall of Antigua."² Robert and Ann Oliver had children, James baptized 19 Feb. 1729/30 at St. Johns; Thomas born 5 Jan. 1733/4 at Antigua; Samuel, baptized 20 Jan. 1734/5 at St. Johns; Ann, baptized 22 Oct. 1724 at St. Johns [James, Samuel and Ann probably all died young]; Isaac, born 20 September 1738; Elizabeth, born 13 October 1741, and Richard, born 19th May 1744, the last three all in Dorchester. Robert Oliver's wife died 20 December 1751, and he died 16 December 1762 (dates from Oliver, vol. 2, and Dorchester Births, Marriages and Deaths). "The Boston Post-Boy for December 20 1762 has the following brief obituary. Thursday morning last, died at his Seat in Dorchester, in the 63d Year of his Age, Col. Robert Oliver. A Gentleman of an extensive Acquaintance, remarkable for his Hospitality to All, was Kind to the Poor, and in his Military Character belov'd and esteem'd: his Family and Neighbors have met with a great Loss in this Bereavment. His Remains are to be interr'd Tomorrow at 3 o'clock in the Family Tomb at Dorchester." (Stark.)

¹ Oliver, Paige and other authorities usually spell the name Ann.

² Oliver, vol. 1, p. 76-77, vol. 2, p. 346-347. He gives records of both marriages from the Parish Register at St. John.

Thomas Oliver, son of Robert, graduated from Harvard College 1753, taking the degrees of A. B. and A. M. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel John Vassall, Senior, of Cambridge in 1760 (Paige, p. 619), Thomas's sister as stated marrying Colonel John Vassall the Second in the following year, thus making a double marriage between the two families. Thomas and Elizabeth Oliver had children, Ann, born 17 November 1763; Elizabeth, born 12 July 1766, in Dorchester (Dorchester Births, Marriages and Deaths); Penelope, baptized 2 October 1768, in Cambridge, where in the records of Christs Church are recorded the baptisms of all three children (Harris, in the Vassalls of N. E.). There were also three other children, Mary, Lucy and Frances. Thomas Oliver's wife Elizabeth died after he went to England and he married 3 June 1781 at St. Johns, Antigua, Harriet, only child and heir of the Hon. Byam Freeman of Antigua. By his second wife he had Harriet Watkins and Emily Freeman. (Oliver, vol. 3, p. 346-347).

"Robert Oliver in his will gave his son Thomas, a suit of mourning, a ring and twenty shillings, and no more, because Thomas's grandfather James Brown and his great-uncle Robert Oliver had already given him a greater estate than the father could." (Stark).

Probably on account of close relations with the Vassall and other families resident in Cambridge, in 1766 Oliver moved to that town. "Thomas Oliver disposed of his property in Dorchester when he went to Cambridge. On July 1, 1766.... he sold to Ebenezer and Lemuel Clap, about thirty-nine acres of land, reserving only the mansion-house and barn, and the land in front of it. This lot with the reservation covered almost precisely the original possession of Comfort Foster.... We do not know who occupied the Oliver house for the next few years, but on 11 May, 1770,.... Thomas Oliver sold the house etc. with three and one half acres of land, for £250 to Richard Lechmere [of Cambridge] giving him also about half an acre on the south front.... [the "triangle," of fig. 8]. Richard Lechmere was the uncle by marriage of Oliver's wife, he having married Mary Phips, whose sister Elizabeth married Col. John Vassall." (Stark.)

"We will now trace the house and land. Richard Lechmere sold them 15 January 1771, to Ezekial Lewis.... Lewis sold them 4 April 1771.... to John Vassall [brother-in-law of Thomas Oliver]. Vassall was a Royalist and a refugee, and was banished by act of the Legislature, his property being confiscated. On June 12, 1781,.... Richard Cranch, Samuel Henshaw and Samuel Barrett, a committee for such purposes, sold the property to John Williams.... [John Williams executors] on November 24, 1786, sold it to Bossinger Foster,.... Bossinger Foster sold it to Lucretia Callahan, November 2, 1787,.... John and Lucretia Callahan sold it to Oliver Everett, November 10, 1792." (Stark.)

It is an interesting coincidence that one of the choice seedling peonies raised by Mr. John Richardson, more than a hundred years later on these grounds, is named Samuel Henshaw, in honor of the gentleman who is the great-grandson of Samuel Henshaw mentioned in the preceding paragraph (see p. 184).

"Rev. Oliver Everett died on November 19th, 1802. The following spring his widow with her family removed to Boston. From this time, until it was sold by Edward Everett, no members of the family resided there, it being leased to various persons." (Stark.)

George Richardson leased the house of Mrs. Everett first in the spring of 1819. "Edward Everett sold it to George Richardson November 10, 1833." (Stark). Mr. George Richardson's account book says 1 October 1833, but Stark's date refers to the date when papers were officially recorded. John Richardson inherited the estate from his brother George in 1861, and on the death of John Richardson his executors sold the house and part of the estate to William Stanford Stevens "October 19, 1888" (Stark). As stated (p. 171), the "triangle," a piece of land lying between Pond and Cottage Streets (fig. 8), which was originally part of the Oliver estate, was not purchased from the Everetts, but was purchased at auction by George Richardson in 1841. John Richardson bequeathed "the triangle" to the city of Boston "to be used as a park or any other purpose except being sold for house lots." (John Richardson's will). For description and illustrations of the Everett house, see pages 167 to 171, figures 8 to 10 and plates 2 to 8.

"Thomas Oliver remained for several years in Dorchester after his father's death" (Stark), "until 1766, when he purchased an estate on Elmwood Avenue, near Mount Auburn [Cambridge], and erected the mansion afterwards the residence of Gov. Gerry, and . . . James Russell Lowell." (Paige, p. 619). Pl. 13.

Drake (p. 318) questions whether Oliver built the Lowell house, as he says: "It has often been stated that this house was built by Colonel Thomas Oliver . . . about 1760; but as the estate was only leased by him until the year 1770, when he acquired the title by purchase of the heirs of John Stratton, of Watertown, we do not give full credence to the assertion . . . Moreover, in the conveyance to Oliver the messuage itself is named." Oliver purchased a number of parcels of real estate in Cambridge, part of which are considered in the following. He purchased, 8 October 1766 (Middlesex Deeds, Book 66, p. 375), of Christopher Grant thirty-eight acres in this vicinity, among which was a parcel of land with a dwelling house and barn, consisting of six acres, bounding easterly and southerly on the Great Road leading to Watertown [*i. e.* the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Mt. Auburn Street], westerly on land of Seth Hastings, and northerly on land of Joseph Palmer. [This parcel of six acres purchased of Grant, from its location and size, necessarily included the site of the Lowell house]. Oliver purchased, 31 March 1767 (Middlesex Deeds, Book 66, p. 624), of Joseph Palmer fifteen acres bounding easterly on the Great Road leading to Watertown [now Elmwood Avenue], southerly on land Thomas Oliver bought of Christopher Grant, westerly on land of Seth Hastings, and northerly on land of Samuel Thacher and George Ruggles. In 1770 (Middlesex Deeds, Book 70, p. 134) Oliver leased of the widow, and in the same year purchased (Book 71, p. 9, 11, 12) of the heirs of John Stratton¹ a certain messuage and parcel of land containing about seventeen acres, lying on the northerly side of the present Mt. Auburn Street,

¹John Stratton "married Mercy Norcross 3 May 1750." (Paige.) His widow later married Christopher Grant, from whom Oliver bought land in 1766. Grant's name appears in both the deed of 1766, and the lease of 1770, in the deed in his own right, and in the lease as the husband of his wife, widow of Stratton, to whom the land had been assigned as dower.

and extending to Fresh Pond. This is evidently the *messuage* and land referred to by Drake, but could not include the present Lowell house, which must stand on the land purchased of Grant in 1766. John Stratton's land was farther to the westward on Mt. Auburn Street; Seth Hastings's land of forty acres extending from Mt. Auburn Street to Fresh Pond, and immediately adjoining Oliver's land on the west, as recited in Grant's deed to Oliver. I find no evidence that Christopher Grant was a man of wealth, so that there is no great probability of his having owned or built such a house. The Lowell house, while not resembling the Everett house closely, has a roof balustrade with flames, and in the interior finish has dadoes, wainscoting and carved banisters which are very similar to those of the Everett house. If not a direct imitation, these similarities at least indicate a near period of construction to that of the Everett house, which Thomas's father built in 1745. It seems therefore that all the evidence favors the view that Thomas Oliver tore down the house standing on land purchased of Grant in 1766 and built the mansion now known as the Lowell house. In the deed from Grant, Thomas Oliver is described as of Dorchester, whereas in all subsequent deeds as of Cambridge. The details of Oliver's purchases gathered from the Registry of Deeds are facts kindly furnished me by Henry M. Spelman, Esq., of Cambridge.

Continuing with the account of Thomas Oliver: "Being a man of fortune, he was not actively engaged in business; nor did he mingle in the stormy political contests of that eventful period, until, in a day fatal to his peace and quiet, he accepted the office of Lieutenant-governor of the Province [of Massachusetts], and President of a Council appointed by the King in a manner particularly obnoxious to popular resentment. On the morning of 2 Sept. 1774, a large number of Middlesex free-holders (Gov. Oliver says about four thousand, assembled at Cambridge, and induced the recently appointed Mandamus Councillors to renounce their offices. The President of the Council was not spared; but, though he urgently requested delay, inasmuch as he could not with propriety renounce that office, while he held that of Lieut-gov., yet he finally yielded, and signed a solemn engagement 'as a man of honor and a Christian,' that he would



THOMAS OLIVER'S HOUSE IN CAMBRIDGE; LATER THE RESIDENCE OF ELBRIDGE GERRY, AND JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

'never hereafter, upon any terms whatsoever, accept a seat at said Board, on the present novel and oppressive plan of government.' He left Cambridge immediately, and never returned. At the evacuation of Boston he accompanied the British forces, soon went to England, and d. at Bristol [England] 20 Nov. 1815, a. 82." (Paige, p. 619-620.) "Though he forfeited a large estate here, he was wealthy from his possessions in the West Indies; still owned by his descendents." (Stark.) "Lieutenant Governor Oliver was a quiet, reserved man, but little known in public life, though ever distinguished by his amiable and gentlemanly grace." (Harris, *Vassalls of N. E.*, p. 124.)

Continuing the consideration of Thomas Oliver's house in Cambridge (Pl. 13). "The house was one of a succession of spacious dwellings set in broad fields, bordering the Charles River, built in the eighteenth century, and occupied for the most part, before the War of Independence, by loyal merchants and officers of the Crown . . . the owners of these estates left them, one by one, as they were forced out by the revolt of the province: but the name of Tory Row lingered about the group . . . [Oliver's house in Cambridge after his leaving] with others in the neighborhood, was seized for public use. When the American army was posted in Cambridge it was used as a hospital for soldiers . . . ["It being represented that the present hospital is not large enough to contain the sick, Lieut.-gov. Oliver's house is to be cleared for that purpose, and care to be taken that no injury is done to it." (Paige, p. 418). To this "care" we doubtless owe much for its good preservation]. Subsequently the estate was confiscated and sold by the Commonwealth . . . The purchaser was Arthur Cabot, of Salem,¹ who later sold it to Elbridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts from 1810-1812, and Vice-President of the United States under Madison, from 4 March, 1813, until his sudden death, 23 November, 1814 . . . In 1818 . . . the homestead and some ten acres of land, was sold by Gerry's heirs to the Rev. Charles Lowell." (Scudder, p. 1, 2, 5, 6.) His eminent and youngest son, James Russell Lowell was

¹ Mr. Scudder says Arthur Cabot of Salem, but official records (*Middlesex Deeds*, Book 95, p. 338) say Andrew Cabot of Beverly.

born there in 1819. Elmwood, as Lowell called it, was his life long, cherished home, and was immortalized by his pen.

Thomas and Elizabeth Oliver as stated married respectively a daughter and a son of Colonel John Vassall, and this association is of great interest. Colonel John Vassall, Senior, son of Major Leonard Vassall, was born in the West Indies 7 September 1713, and graduated from Harvard College 1732 [taking the degrees of A.B. and A.M.]. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant Governor Spencer Phips, 10 October 1734; she died 22 September 1739, and he married Lucy, only daughter of Jonathan Barron, of Chelmsford. His children were Ruth, born 14 July 1737, who married Edward Davis of Boston; John, born 12 June 1738 who married Elizabeth Oliver of Dorchester; Elizabeth born 12 September 1739, who married Thomas Oliver of Dorchester, 11 June 1760; Lucy born 15 November 1747, who married John Lavicourt of Antigua. Colonel John Vassall the father bought, 26 July 1736, a house and seven acres of land at the westerly corner of Brattle and Ash Streets, Cambridge, which estate he sold 30 December 1741 to his brother Henry, having probably, in the mean time, either erected or much enlarged the house. This house, which is still standing, is one of the fine old mansions of Cambridge, and is known as the Henry Vassall house, or the Governor Belcher house. Colonel John Vassall later, 17 January 1746, bought six and a half acres on the opposite side of Brattle Street on which the Longfellow house was later built by his son. He died 27 November 1747 [and his tomb is a prominent feature in the old burying ground in Cambridge¹]. (Paige, p. 674-675).

Henry Vassall, the brother of John, as noted above, "was born in the West Indies 25 December 1721, and married Penelope, the daughter of Isaac Royall, of Medford, 28 January 1742. (Paige, p. 675). As Mrs. Royall was the grandmother of Thomas Oliver (p. 188) her daughter who married Henry Vassall was consequently the aunt of Thomas Oliver and also half-sister to Thomas's mother, Mrs. Robert Oliver of Dorchester.

John Vassall, Second, the son of John Vassall, Senior, born in

¹ Figured by Freese (p. 9).

1738, graduated from Harvard College, 1757, ten years after his father's death and married Elizabeth the daughter of Robert Oliver and sister of Thomas Oliver, the 12 June 1761, and had John, born 7 May 1762; Spencer Thomas, born 7 April 1764; Thomas Oliver, born 12 April 1766; Elizabeth baptized 5 July 1767; Robert Oliver, born 28 May 1769; Elizabeth, born 5 May 1771; Leonard, born 1773; and Mary, born in London 26 March 1777. (Paige, p. 675.)

John Vassall, Second, about the time he married Elizabeth Oliver (Drake says about 1759): On the estate originally inherited from his father and by subsequent purchases greatly enlarged erected the splendid mansion¹ (Harris²), which was known later as the Washington Headquarters and for many years the home-stead of Longfellow. Vassall abandoned it at the commencement of the Revolution and fled with his family to England where he died suddenly 2 October 1797. (Paige, p. 675.)

After Mt. Vernon this house (Pl. 14) is perhaps the best known house in America. A number of good exterior and interior views of the house and grounds have been recently published by Capen, and Holtzoper gives a fine plate of the main doorway. A most interesting account of the various occupants of the house is given by Drake, from which the following facts are taken. Colonel John Vassall, in 1775 became a refugee and retired to England. During the Revolution Colonel John Glover of Marblehead with his famous Marblehead regiment occupied the house as headquarters for a period, it then for eight months became the residence and headquarters of Washington until April 1776. After the war it was occupied by Nathaniel Tracy of Newburyport, who was a brother of my great-grandmother. Then by Thomas Russell; Dr. Andrew Craigie; Jared Sparks, the historian; Edward Everett, while a professor in Harvard College; Willard; Phillips; and Worcester, the lexicographer. In 1837 the poet Longfellow became an inmate, with Mrs. Craigie for landlady, and it was thereafter his beloved home. Washington and Longfellow both

¹ Drake says, p. 292, that the house was erected by John Vassall, whose tomb is in the Cambridge Cemetery, but this is an error as he died in 1747.

² Harris, in his *Vassalls of New England* gives very full accounts of land purchases of the family.

occupied as their bed-chamber the southeast room, the right hand of the figure. From this room emanated thoughts of war and thoughts of peace that stirred a nation to its depths.

Still another famous house is closely associated with the Olivers and therefore with the Everett house in Dorchester, namely the Isaac Royall house in Medford, Pl. 14. Freese gives a delightful view of the house, taken in summer, and Holtzoper figures in detail the doorways on the front and rear of the house. Mrs. Robert Oliver was a daughter of James Brown, of Antigua (p. 188), her mother, Mrs. James Brown, after her husband's death married in 1707 Isaac Royall,¹ a wealthy merchant of Antigua. According to Harris, Isaac Royall in 1732 purchased of the heirs of Lieutenant Governor Usher an estate in Charlestown (Medford) containing about five hundred acres; the house still standing, and widely known as the Royall Mansion was built by Usher. Although the conveyance was dated 1732, Harris says there is evidence that Royall did not occupy his Medford property until some years later. The interior of this house is perhaps the most beautifully ornamented of any old house of its period in this vicinity. Slave quarters were built near the house and the grounds laid out in elegant taste with fruit trees, shrubbery, garden, etc. Isaac Royall died 7 June 1739, and his widow in 1747. According to Drake, she was interred from Colonel Oliver's house in Dorchester [Mrs. Oliver being her daughter], and is buried in the tomb with her husband in the old burying ground in that town. In the tomb are interred William Royall, of Maine, his son Isaac, Senior, the latter's wife, and other members of the family.

¹ Isaac Royall, son of William, of North Yarmouth, Maine, and later Dorchester, Mass., married 1 July 1697 in Boston, Elizabeth, widow of one Oliver, and daughter of Asaph Eliot. They had one child, Asaph that died in infancy. Harris in his account of the family cites this marriage and birth, but overlooked a second marriage. Oliver shows that Isaac Royall married secondly, Elizabeth, widow of James Brown, at Antigua, 3 (? June) 1707, and quotes the Parish Register at St. Johns in proof. The fact that Isaac's second wife had the same given name as the first fostered the oversight. Isaac's second wife therefore was the mother of Isaac, Second; and Penelope, who married Henry Vassall; not his first wife, as stated by Harris.



JOHN VASSALL'S HOUSE IN CAMBRIDGE; LATER OCCUPIED BY WASHINGTON, AND
THE HOME OF THE POET LONGFELLOW.



ISAAC ROYALL HOUSE IN MEDFORD.

The monument at the Royall tomb, in the old cemetery at Upham's Corner, Dorchester, consists of a horizontal slab of marble supported by five sandstone columns. The slab bears a coat of arms consisting of three sheaves of wheat enclosed in a scroll and the following inscription; part of which is nearly effaced by weathering.

"Here lyeth $\frac{e}{y}$ Body of WILL^m ROYALL | of North Yarmouth, in the PROVINCE | of MAINE. who departed this Life, | Nov^r $\frac{e}{y}$ 7th 1724 in $\frac{e}{y}$ 85th Year of his Age | this Stone is Erected, to $\frac{e}{y}$ Pious Memory | of his Father, by his Eldest Son ISAAC | as the last Act of a dutifull remembrance" |

"Here lyes the Body | of the Hon^{ble}. ISAAC ROYALL Esq^r | Who departed this Life at his Seat in Charlestown | June $\frac{e}{y}$ 7th Anno Domⁿⁱ 1739 *Ætatis* 67. | He was a gent^l of Superior natural powers & great acquired knowledge | Civil affable courteous & Just to all Men | Remarkably Dutifull to his Parents, Kind to his Relations & Charitable to $\frac{e}{y}$ Poor. | He was a faithful Husband a tender Father a Kind Master & a True Friend | Delighted in doing good. | He was highly esteemed & respected during his residence at *Antigua* which was near 40 Years | and advanced to $\frac{e}{y}$ most Honourable & important Publick employments Civil & Military | Which He discharged with $\frac{e}{y}$ highest reputation & fidelity | He Returned with His Family to *New England* His Native Country | July 27 1737 | Where His death which Soon followed was greatly Lamented by all who Knew Him | He Lived a Virtuous Life So He was removed by a peacefull Death | Leaving a SON & DAUGHTER | To inherit a plentiful Fortune which He was Blesd with | And an exemplary Pattern for Their imitation | at His desire His Remains were here | Interred with His Parents | For whom He Erected this | MONUMENT." | ¹

Isaac Royall the Second kept up his father's place in Medford and his daughters married respectively George Erving and Sir William Pepperell of Portsmouth. (Oliver.) He founded the

¹ Oliver in publishing this epitaph makes several errors in the transcription and says that the second portion, or epitaph to Isaac, is on a separate tomb, but this is a mistake, the whole, as quoted, being on a single slab.

Royall Professorship of Law at Harvard, the first law professorship of that university. In the library of the Harvard Law School is a portrait of Isaac Royall, Second — his wife, sister Penelope, wife's sister and child, painted in 1740, by Robert Feke, a Quaker of Newport. (Brown.) Isaac Royall being driven out by the Revolution, his house became headquarters for Generals Stark and Lee, and in 1810 passed into the possession of Jacob Tidd. (Drake.)

Such an intimate association of old houses is remarkable, all interesting as choice examples of colonial architecture, the homes of prominent families in colonial times, and later full of historic interest as homes for longer or shorter periods of many of America's most illustrious men.

To state the relation of families and houses in brief: Thomas Oliver's father built the Everett house; his grandmother Royall and her husband lived in the Royall house in Medford, Thomas Oliver doubtless built the Lowell house, and his brother-in-law, John Vassall, built the Longfellow house. In addition Thomas Oliver's near of kin occupied most of the famous old houses in Cambridge known as "Tory Row." His aunt Penelope,¹ wife of Henry Vassall, lived in the Governor Belcher house; his wife's aunt Mary,² wife of Richard Lechmere, lived in the Riedesel house³; his wife's aunt Rebecca,² wife of Judge Joseph Lee, lived in the house which bears his name; his wife's aunt Susanna,⁴ wife of Captain George Ruggles, lived in the house now known as the Fayerweather house; and his wife's aunt Anna,⁴ wife of John Borland, lived in the Plympton house.

This delightful association of old time Tory aristocrats is thus described by Baroness Riedesel in her letters. "Never had I chanced upon such an agreeable situation. Seven families,

¹ Penelope, daughter of Isaac Royall, Senior, of Medford, and half sister of Mrs. Robert Oliver of Dorchester. (Paige, p. 675.)

² Mary and Rebecca, daughters of Lieut.-Gov. Spencer Phips, therefore sisters of Mrs. John Vassall, Senior. (Paige, p. 627.)

³ In front of the original site of this house stand some superb European lindens, perhaps the oldest and finest specimens of their species in the country.

⁴ Susanna and Anna, daughters of Major Leonard Vassall and therefore sisters of Colonel John Vassall, Senior. (Harris, p. 119.)

who were connected with each other, partly by the ties of relationship and partly by affection, had here farms, gardens, and magnificent houses, and not far off plantations of fruit. The owners of these were in the habit of daily meeting each other in the afternoons, now at the house of one, and now another, and making themselves merry with music and the dance—living in prosperity, united and happy, until, alas! this ruinous war severed them, and left all their houses desolate, except two, the proprietors of which were also soon obliged to flee.” (Paige, p. 168-9.)

Fuller details in regard to these old houses and their interesting occupants are given in the authorities quoted and other local histories. Especially interesting and complete are the splendid work on the history of Antigua by Oliver, the papers by Harris and Stark, and the very careful, painstaking History of Cambridge by Paige. Mr. J. W. Freese gives a brief account of these and other historic houses in near by towns, fully illustrated by excellent photographic reproductions.

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- THURLOW, T. C.** Herbaceous and tree-pæonies. American Florist, 23 Sept. 1899, vol. 15, no. 590, p. 219-220.
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- WHITMORE, WILLIAM H.** See Stark.
- WHITNEY, ELBRIDGE.** Map of Dorchester, Mass., lithographed, Boston, 1850.

- WILDER, MARSHALL P. See Winsor.
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- Homes of American authors. New York, 1857; pp. 8 and 366. [Everett house, figure and description, p. 217-218].
- Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. [Richardson seedling peonies or dahlias awarded certificates or a medal, see, for the year 1869, p. 34, 66; 1870, p. 51, 96; 1871, p. 64, 111; 1883, part 2, p. 222, 252; 1884, part 2, p. 216, 238; 1891, part 2, p. 276, 295.]
- Dorchester births, marriages and deaths, to end of 1825. Boston, 1890, pp. 4 and 392.
- History of the town of Dorchester, Mass., by a committee of the Dorchester antiquarian and historical society. Boston, 1859, pp. 12 and 672. [Gov. Oliver, p. 385, 564; Everetts, p. 534, 570. The names of the committee constituting the authors is easily overlooked, but is given on p. 643.]
- Nomenclature of streets, City of Boston. Document 119, 1879, pp. 122.
- America's great orator. The 100th anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett. Boston Evening Herald, 10 April 1894, p. 5.
- The Dorchester book, illustrated, Boston, 1899, pp. 582, many cuts and plates. [Contains papers by Edward Everett Hale and others. The Everett house, p. 31-33, 1 fig., 1 plate, including an excellent figure of the house, Chestnut Street, p. 15; Blake house, p. 57.]
- Quinquennial catalogue of Harvard University, 1836-1900. Cambridge, 1900, pp. 4 and 615.
- Vital records of Princeton Massachusetts to the end of the year 1849. Worcester, Mass., 1902, p. 195.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

- PLATE 1. Portrait of Mr. John Richardson, from a daguerreotype taken in Dorchester, 25 September 1861, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. The signature from a manuscript written in 1887. Opposite page 159.
- PLATE 2. The Richardson house, built by Robert Oliver in 1745, later the residence of the Everetts, usually known as the Everett house, southwest view, from Boston Street. Taken in 1887. Pages 168, 188.
- PLATE 3. The Richardson (Everett) house, barn and fruit-house, southwest view, including the corner of Pond and Boston Streets. Taken in the autumn of 1887. Page 170.

PLATE 4. The Richardson (Everett) house, in summer, the fence has been moved back and some trees cut down as compared with plate 3. A sign board indicates an entrance to Columbia Road, part of the Boston Park System. Taken about 1898. Page 169.

PLATE 5. The Richardson (Everett) house from the northeast, including in the foreground part of the garden. Taken in 1887. Page 170.

PLATE 6. Mr. Richardson's sitting room, the southeast room, the east windows of which (one of these being seen on the right) overlooked the garden. Taken September 1887. Page 170.

PLATE 7. Mr. Richardson's parlor, the southwest room (the windows shown are on the south). The pictures in this room and the sitting room, were painted by Mr. George Richardson. Taken September 1887. Page 170.

PLATE 8. Mr. Richardson's house and garden, from the east. The lower windows belong to the sitting room (Pl. 6), the upper windows to the room where Edward Everett was born. The dining room window, open door to rear hall, and arbor are on the right. Compare with cut, Fig. 10, p. 169. Dahlias are trained against the fence, *Ismenes*, *Iris Sibirica* and a peony are on the right of the path. Taken September 1887. Pages 169, 170, 171.

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